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IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO. STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CAI REP. TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR 25X1A9a WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED ITEM NO:

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QADHAFI CHARGES US INVOLVEMENT IN LIBYAN FEUD WITH SUBJECT:

EGYPT

REF

25X1A2g

LIBYANN'S PRESIDENT RADHAFI HAS LEVELLED A VEILED ACCUSATION THAT THE UZ MAY HAVE PROMPTED EGYPT'S RECENT MOVES AGAINST TRIPOLI. HE MADE THIS REMARK IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED EARLIER THIS WEEK IN THE BEIRUT AND LIBYAN PRESS. WHILE SPECULATING ON WHETHER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTREIS COULD BE REPAIRED, QADHAFI PONDERED THAT "PERHAPS AMERICA OR SOME OTHER PARTY" HAD INSTIGATED CAIRO'S ACTIONS TO SUIT ITS OWN PURPOSES. IF THIS WERE THE CASE, QADHAFI WARNED, RECONCILIATION WITH EGYPT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

THE LIBYAN LEADER'S STATEMENT COULD BE SIMPLY AN EFFORT TO

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EXCUSE AN EMBARRASSING INTER-ARAB FEUD. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CHARGE MAY HAVE BEEN A RETORT TO SADAT'S SUGGESTION LAST WEEK THAT LIBYA WAS BEING USED UNWITTINGLY IN AN "IMPERIALIST PLAN TO DIVIDE THE ARAB EAST FROM THE ARAB WEST"--A POORLY DISGUISED REFERENCE TO TRIPOLI'S NEW COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS.

ALTHOUGH THE INTERVIEW MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE SOME TIME AGO,

ITS PUBLICATION IS A VIOLATION OF LAST WEEK'S PROPAGANDA TRUCE,

AND IT MAY PROVOKE A RESPONSE FROM CAIRO. SADAT INTRODUCED THE

THEME OF SUPERPOWER MANIPULATION OF THE FEUD, BUT HE PROBABLY WILL

SEE DISADVANTAGES IN PURSUING IT. CAIRO IS AWARE OF ITS VULNERABI
LITY TO CHARGES OF COOPERATING TOO CLOSELY WITH THE US.

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